

From: Shiven Malhotra
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 8:08pm
Subject: Microsoft's Monopoly

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a Microsoft user since I was ten years old. For the longest time I believed that computers were meant to be used only by those who can understand, or know how to use them. But as I grew older I realised that technology has no place in our world unless it can be applied to our everyday lives and to do that technology has to be accessible to those who don't want to understand how the technology achieves the outcome.

I switched to the Macintosh Operating System once I reached college. I realised that Microsoft has never been an innovator in computer technology but it has always known how to market its products well. But marketing an inferior product is not illegal
PREVENTING COMPETITION IS!!

Innovation comes from those who feel that the status quo is not meeting the needs of the common man. Innovators give us a brand new way of looking at ideas and concepts. When a company comes up with an idea that threatens the status quo, the status quo tries to prevent the spread of the idea. Microsoft achieves this by crushing the competition, or just making the competitive product incompatible with the Microsoft Operating System.

In Saudi Arabia a year ago WordPerfect was going to release an Arabic version of its word processor that was far superior to Microsoft Word. Microsoft decided to preempt WordPerfect by releasing its version of Word in Arabic first. The only problem was that though the box of the software was in Arabic, inside THE VERSION WAS IN ENGLISH. Microsoft provided a slip for a free version of the Arabic software once it had completed it. BUT it took nearly 3 years for the Arabic version to come out!!! People bought the software believing that the software inside was in their native language but were deceived!!

In Bill Gates book, "The Road Ahead", in the original version he believed that the Internet was

insignificant!! Yet when Netscape posed a real challenge to Microsoft, Mr. Gates went on the offensive by making the Netscape browser less compatible with the Microsoft Operating System, while its browser was brought to the market.

Mr. Gates says that WindowsXP is the "most secure Operating System" that Microsoft has ever built, yet hackers have proven him wrong at every turn. Hackers even hacked into Microsoft's own website. The FBI issued a statement that the Microsoft Operating System was not to be used, because of security concerns.

Competition breeds quality in products delivered and services rendered. I am originally from India. I have been witness to the changes in the quality of products and services in my country. The lack of competition had made our companies complacent. The level of services the monopoly companies provided was the only level of service the consumer experienced. There is no surprise that the consumer believed that the level of service was good. After all SOME SERVICE IS BETTER THAN NO SERVICE!!!

Today competition is starting to flourish in India. This has woken up these sleeping giants. They now have to compete with the innovators and new entrants into the market, or become part of history. The consumer, once given a choice will go to the supplier he or she feels best meets their needs. But they will not have this option if they cannot see past the one supplier market!!

Microsoft's main aim is to shield the consumers from ever seeing any other possibilities in the market, and from preventing these possibilities from ever materialising.

This brings to mind a picture of a dragon protecting a bridge. On one side are the innovators and the competition and the other side are the consumers. To get to the consumers the innovators and competitors have to survive the dragon's displeasure. Even if they manage to get past the dragon, the state in which they get past no longer makes them viable competitors who can make a material difference in the market.

Microsoft is an innovator is an OXYMORON!!

Throughout history people in power have been scared by new ideas. They have tried to discredit the idea or discredit the person with the idea. Gallilio discovered that the Earth goes around the Sun. He was burned at the stake for sticking to the truth.

PLEASE DON'T LET MICROSOFT PREVENT REAL CHANGE FROM COMING THE INDUSTRY!! THEY HAVE FINANCIAL POWER, DON'T BACK THEM UP WITH LEGAL FREEDOM!!

"Nothing in this world is so powerful as an idea whose time has come" -- Victor Hugo

It's time we let Microsoft know that their Monopolistic Strategies will not be tolerated by the United States!!

Thank You,
Shiven Malhotra

Do You Yahoo!?
Great stuff seeking new owners in Yahoo! Auctions!
<http://auctions.yahoo.com>